ROTHBURY
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR THE

Year ending December 31st, 1909.

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ROTHBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer

For the Year ending December 31st, 1909.

ROTHBURY,

February 16th, 1910.

Mr. Davy and Gentlemen,

Allow me to tender to your Board this, my fourteenth Annual Report, being that for the year ending December 31st, 1909.

During this period, there were 27 births registered, being a little more than your average of 25, and a good deal more than the previous year of only 17. If we estimate the population at the middle of last year at 1,300, then, this is at a rate of 20·8, your previous average rate being 19·2, while that for England and Wales 24·8 for the same year. Of these 27, 14 were males, and 13 females. They were registered during the first quarter 3, the second 8, the third 10, and last 6. There were no illegitmate births registered.

There were 18 deaths, which is at a rate of 14·0 per 1,000, but 4 of these did not belong to the district, hence there were only 14 residents, and this at a rate of only 10·8 and is very satisfactory. That for England and Wales (small Urban) is 14·5. Your previous average was 16·8 There were 6 males, and 8 females. These occured during January, 0; February, 2; March, 2; April, 1; May, 0; June, 2; July, 1; August, 1; September, 3; October, 0; November, 2; December, 0.

As there were 27 births, and only 14 deaths, it follows, that there were 13 naturally added to the population, this is at a rate of 10·0 per 1,000, and is a great improvement on last year, when there was no natural increase but the other way. That for England and Wales is about 12·0.

It is again a matter for congratulation, that no children died under the age of one year, that is, in infancy. Thus giving an infantile death rate of *nil*, while that for England and Wales is 111·0. Your previous average has been 94·1 per 1,000 born.

The age periods at which these deaths occurred were:—under one year, 0; five to fifteen, 1; 25 to 65, 2; and above that, 11. Of these latter, three were over 65 years of age, seven others from 70 to 80, and a female was 85.

There was only one death attributable to any of the 7 chief notifiable Infectious diseases (Zymotic), it being due to **Diphtheria**. This is at the rate of only 0·76 per 1,000, that for England and Wales, is, 1·08. Your total for the previous 13 years has been 8, equal to a rate of only 0·61.

The more important other causes of death, were as follows:—**Enteritis,** 1; **Alcoholism,** 1; **Heart Diseases,** 3, your average being 5; **Apoplexy,** 2; **Senile Decay,** 4; and all other causes, 2 There were no deaths due to Phthisis. During the previous 13 years, this disease caused 21 deaths, which is at a rate of only 1·23 per 1,000. There were also none due to Cancer, which caused 17 deaths in the previous 13 years, being at a rate of 1·30.

The causes of death of the **Strangers** were:—Accident, 1; Tuberculosis, 1; Heart Disease, 1; and Paralysis, 1. A woman visiting here, fell down stairs, and died from the injuries sustained, an inquest being held. An ex-police man, aged 35,

suffering from Tuberculosis, was sent out here, and died here on June 13th. This house was disinfected afterwards by your Surveyor. A gentleman staying at the County Hotel, died suddenly from pre-existing Heart Disease. An elderly woman of long standing illness, came to stay with her sister, and died there of Chronic Paralysis.

Infectious Diseases, were notified in 9 cases, with one death, due to Diphtheria; they include Dipththeria 4, Erysipelas 4, and Scarlet Fever 1. The **Diphtheria** occurred in 3 outbreaks. There were two children in the first at Addycombe Cottages, and one in the second in the High Street. In each of these, there occurred a connection with visitors from Blyth, where it was present. It broke out at the Cottages on August 20th, and the second boy, on August 31st, this latter died on September 6th. On inspection, nothing unsanitary existed to cause it. Isolation and disinfection were used, and it did not spread any further. On September 6th it broke out in a girl aged 13, in the High Street. There was nothing unsanitary there, and with isolation and disinfectants, it did not spread. On December 21st, a woman took it in the Malting Yard; there was nothing unsanitary and the usual steps were taken. It did not spread. All over the County there seems to have been more than the average during the year of cases of Diphtheria.

Erysipelas was notified four times. One was 8 years of age, one of 16, of 28, and of 46, all in different parts of the area. They occurred in April, May, September, and December; and the parts affected were, the face three times, and foot once.

Scarlet Fever was imported from Musselboro' on September 2nd, on a child aged 5 years. It occurred in this house again, directly they left the place, and then it was traced to the milk supply. As a Post Office Assistant, and

two School Teachers lodged in the house, I advised removal to the Infectious Diseases Hospital. This was done, the lodging house disinfected and no further cases occurred. The Hospital was also disinfected afterwards.

Influenza kept breaking out at intervals, without any deaths.

Whooping Cough continued on for awhile, from the outbreak at end of preceding year. Later visitors brought a child here, when I had to caution them as to exposure.

Measles were also imported, but with care and issolation it did not spread.

Phthisis. Two visitors came here in advanced stages. The first a woman who stayed two months, and then left, the place being disinfected afterwards. The other was an ex-policeman, and he died here. The house was afterwards disinfected by your Surveyor. There was no death due to this disease amongst residents, and no cases notified under the New Act, under which it is compulsory to notify such cases in Union, and Poor Law, Medical Practice. Your Board has agreed to provide cheap expectoration flasks for these patients, and I call and send printed instructions.

The Cow Sheds. The Whittle farmer, has ceased to send the milk here now. Mrs Brown has started with two in a cemented and drained shed, with ventilation. The same of H. Dobson, who has three in a field to the East. Cowan's, in what was a stable, has two, in good order. H. Storey (Blue House), has six, and increased his accomodation, all in good order. The rest are clean and tidy. There is no arrangement in this district for testing the Cow for Tuberculosis.

The Slaughter Houses (4) have been inspected from time to time, are kept clean and tidy. I have not seen any diseased meat, Tubercular or otherwise, nor has my attention been called to any. There is no Officer specially appointed to examine the meat, the district being very small.

The Notification of Births' Act is not adopted in your district, and as there are no infantile deaths, it does not seem to be necessary.

The Elementary Schools, are good new buildings, and all sanitary requirements, excellent. The Schools' Medical Inspector also periodically visits and examines the Scholars and premises for the County Education Board. The Higher Grade School has also been put in good sanitary condition.

The Factory and Workpeople's Act, there are 22 Workshops on your register, being an increase of one on last year's register. This was a baker, who uses the place of one vacated some time ago. All was in good order here. A blacksmith caused a nuisance by reason of his chimney smoking into the next premises. He was told to remedy this, and by raising the chimney six feet, considerably improved matters. He has not provided sanitary offices yet, but his dwelling house is close at hand. There were inspected, Dressmakers 5, Bootmakers 3, Plumbers 2, Joiner 1, Bakers 3, Blacksmith 3, Tailor 2, Harness Maker 2, Beer Bottlers 1. All were in good order, same as mentioned.

The Isolation Hospital was used for the case of Scarlet Fever as mentioned, with great advantage to that family, and the community. Doubtless this cut short an epidemic at a time when visitors were here.

Both **Water Supplies** have kept good and abundant.

The **Sewerage Scheme** has been got well under way. A good deal of the main sewer pipe has now been laid, including the part laying under the river, and the tunnelling through the Thrum Rocks is advancing. Progress has also been made at the Filter Beds. The cost is estimated about £5,250, the chief part to be spread over 30 years re-payment, and the money has been borrowed.

There were no proceedings before the Magistrates.

The Coroner held an inquest as mentioned above.

The removal of ashes, etc.. is done by the private individual to the rubbish depot on Garleigh Moor.

Your Inspeetor regularly and systematically goes over the district, reporting each month to the Board.

Cowans has converted a faulty privy into a proper W.C. The ash middens at the back of the Market Place have now been covered in. A blocked drain in the Brewery Lane was rectified. The same at back of the East Silverton Cottages. The sewer outlet at the Mart Cottage has received attention. A house in the Backway that was closed has been much improved ; the water supply has been laid on, and with fires, open windows and doors, the house much dried. It is now re-occupied with your permission. A smoke nuisance was abated.

The ash middens have been kept in good order, with one exception.

There are 14 houses unoccupied.

I am indebted to Mr. Bertram, of Cragside, for again furnishing me with the following table of rainfall and sunshine during the year 1909. This is taken at Cragside.

the site of observation being 405 feet above the sea level. There fell, during

JANUARY	1·58 inches
FEBRUARY	3·00
MARCH	6·65
APRIL	3·46
MAY	1·90
JUNE	2·87
JULY	2·41
AUGUST	3·05
SEPTEMBER	2·22
OCTOBER	3·07
NOVEMBER	0 74
DECEMBER	4·19
	35·14

Thus 35·14 inches fell, as against 30·96 of the year before, whilst your average has been about 38·0 inches. There were 173 wet days. Most rain fell in March, viz., 6·65 inches. The hours of sunshine were 1,520, against 1,414 of the year before; in May there were 233, but only 51 in December.

Your obedient servant,

F. BARROW,

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE OF CAUSES OF, AND AGES, AT DEATH, during Year 1909, in Rothbury (Urban) Distirct.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined ages.							Deaths of Non-Residents
	All ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	
Diphtheria	1			1				
Enteritis	1						1	
Other tubercular diseases								1
Alcoholism	1					1		
Heart diseases	3						3	1
Accidents								1
Apoplexy	2					1	1	
Senile decay...	4						4	
All other causes	2						2	1
All causes	14			1		2	11	4

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS

In the Rothbury (Urban) District.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under 1 Year of age.		Deaths at all ages. Total.		Total Deaths in Public Institutions in District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in District.	Deaths at all ages. Nett.	
		Number.	*Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births.	Number.	*Rate.			Number.	*Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1891	1192										
1899	1280	21	16·4	2	95·2	22	17·2	...	5	17	13·3
1900	1290	37	30·8	4	103 1	29	22·5	...	2	27	21·0
1901	1300	27	20·8	4	148·1	26	20 0	...	1	25	19 2
1902	1300	16	12·2	...	...	26	19·9	...	7	19	14·5
1903	1310	35	26 7	3	85·7	22	16·8	...	3	19	14·5
1904	1320	22	16·9	3	115 4	26	20 0	...	2	24	18 1
1905	1330	28	21 0	3	107·1	18	13·5	..	...	18	13·5
1906	1340	24	18·0	1	41·6	20	14·9	...	1	19	14·1
1907	1340	25	18·5	2	80·0	26	19·2	...	...	26	19·2
1908	1330	17	13·0	...	...	29	22 3	3	...	26	20·0
Averages for years 1899-1908.	1310	25	19·2	2	80 0	24	18·5	...	2	22	16·8
1909	1300	27	20·8	...	...	18	14·0	...	4	14	10·8

* Rates in columns 4, 8, and 12 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water)... ...	948
Total Population at all ages (1902)	1,300
Number of inhabited houses	293
Average number of persons per house	4·5